(b) The State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations are the appropriate Governments under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act for fixation and revision of the minimum wages for most of the agricultural workers Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act provides for the time limit by which the minimum wages should be revised. As per Section 3(b) of the Minimum Wages Act the appropriate Government should review the wages at such intervals as it may think fit, such intervals not exceeding five years. However, one of the conclusions of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in 1980 was that the minimum wages should be revised once in two years or on a rise of 50 points of Consumer Prices Index Number whichever is earlier. This conclusion of the Labour Ministers' Conference has been brought to the notice of the State Governments/ Union Territories.

Reduction of Import on Amino Acids

3821 SHRI SURESH KALMADI

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that feed costs account for nearly 75 per cent of the total cost of production of eggs;

(b) what is the import duty on amino acids which is used in poultry feed and whether it is exorbitantly high as compared to other countries of the world;

(c) whether Government propose to consider reducing import duty on amino acids to encourage poultry farming and save it from extinction; and

(d) whether Government have imported maze required for poultry farming if so when and what quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Amino Acids like DL-Methionine and L-Lysine which are used in manufacture of poultry feed attract customs duty of 70 per cent basic plus 45 per cent auxiliary plus 15 per cent additional duty equal to excise duty total 147.25 per cent ad valorem. This duty is higher as compared to some other countries of the world

(c) The proposal is under examination.

(d) No, Sir.

Amount distributed by Bank as Drought Relief

3822. SHRI SURESH KALMADI Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the nationalised banks and the amount of money distributed by each of them as drought relief measures during the last two months; and

(b) what are the names of States and the amount of money received by each of them in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.